

Amendments

Please amend the above-identified application, as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 12, 24 & 37 as follows:

Sub B' > 1. (Amended) A method for encoding a frame having [a
noisy portion, said frame comprising] a plurality of
macroblocks, said method comprising [for each macroblock of
said plurality of macroblocks]:

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determining whether said frame includes a noisy
portion, and if so, then for each macroblock of said
frame:

(i) determining a macroblock activity level;

(ii) determining when said macroblock
activity level exceeds a predefined threshold,
wherein said macroblock activity level exceeding
said predefined threshold indicates that said
macroblock is associated with said noisy portion
of said frame; and

(iii) adjusting encoding of said macroblock
when said macroblock activity level exceeds said
predefined threshold to conserve bits used in
encoding said macroblock and thereby save bits

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otherwise used to encode said noisy portion of
said frame.

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1 12. (Amended) The method of claim [11]1, wherein said
2 determining whether said frame comprises said noisy portion
3 includes calculating a frame complexity value and comparing
4 said frame complexity value to a predefined complexity
5 threshold.

1 Sub B7 → 24. (Amended) A system for encoding a frame [having a
2 noisy portion, said frame] comprising a plurality of
3 macroblocks, said system comprising:

4 means for determining whether said frame includes
5 a noisy portion, and if so, then for each macroblock of
6 said frame:

A3
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7 (i) means for determining a macroblock
8 activity level;

9 (ii) means for determining when said
10 macroblock activity level exceeds a predefined
11 threshold, wherein said macroblock activity level
12 exceeding said predefined threshold indicates that
13 said macroblock is associated with said noisy
14 portion of said frame; and

15 (iii) means for adjusting encoding of said
16 macroblock when said macroblock activity level
17 exceeds said predefined threshold to conserve bits

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18 used in encoding said macroblock and thereby save
19 bits otherwise used to encode said noisy portion
20 of said frame.

Sub-B12
D12

1 37. (Amended) A computer program product comprising a
2 computer usable medium having computer readable program code
3 means therein for use in encoding a frame [having a noisy
4 portion, said frame] comprising a plurality of macroblocks,
5 said computer readable program code means in said computer
6 program product comprising [for each macroblock of said
7 plurality of macroblocks]:

A4
Cancel

8 computer readable program code means for causing a
9 computer to affect determining whether said frame
10 includes a noisy portion, and if so, then for each
11 macroblock of said frame said computer program
12 comprises:

13 computer readable program code means for
14 causing a computer to affect determining a
15 macroblock activity level;

16 computer readable program code means for
17 causing a computer to affect determining when said
18 macroblock activity level exceeds a predefined
19 threshold, wherein said macroblock activity level
20 exceeding said predefined threshold indicates that
21 said macroblock is associated with said noisy
22 portion of said frame; and